Agriculturists' Relief Bill.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not move to introduce the Cochin Agriculturists' Relief Bill.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

Regulation of Sales Bill.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not move the Cochin Regulation of Sales Bill also.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

Point of Order: *re*: Continuance of Business disposed of under S. O. 26.—(*cont.*)

President.—A point of order was raised yesterday with a view to obtaining a ruling as to the effect of a motion carried under Standing Order 26 "that the Council pass to the business next in order" when the motion before the House at the time was to refer a bill to a Select Committee. The question at issue is shortly whether the carrying of the motion under Standing Order 26 has the effect of putting a stop to all further action with regard to the bill the reference of which to a Select Committee is before the House when the motion under Standing Order 26 is carried or whether that motion merely disposes of the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee and leaves it open to a member to make a fresh motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee.

The real question for decision therefore is whether the words "the business then under discussion" include the whole bill or only the motion to refer it to a Select Committee. I have come to the conclusion that the words in question include only the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee and not the whole bill. Reference to a Select Committee is not an essential part of the procedure for passing a bill and it is open to the House to refer a bill to a Select Committee or not as it thinks fit and even if such a motion is made and negatived the member in charge of the bill may still move subsequently under Standing Order 32 that the bill be taken into consideration. It is clear therefore that reference to a Select Committee is not an essential part of the procedure for passing a bill and, that being so, it seems to me that "the business before the House" when such a motion is before it is only the question of referring the bill to a Select Committee and not the bill itself. It follows from this that a motion under Standing Order 26 that the Council pass on to the next business would have the effect only of disposing of the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee when such a motion is before the House and not of terminating all further action in regard to the bill. The case would be otherwise if the motion before the House when the motion under

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